

Annual Report 2002



New Mexico State Courts

Annual Message

So much has happened during my tenure as Chief Justice. As I look back I feel pride, humility, and joy in the opportunity given to me to represent the judiciary and the people of New Mexico. As the only Hispanic Chief Justice in the country for the last two years, I have been greeted with open arms and hearts by the citizens of New Mexico and members of the legal community nationally. I have had the opportunity to address graduates from New Mexico Highlands University and deliver commencement addresses to the graduating classes of the American Catholic University School of Law in Washington, D.C. and the University of Denver School of Law in Colorado. As I have spoken to students and bar associations across the country, I have carried the message and spirit of the people and culture of New Mexico. I remind students, jurists, and attorneys that in cultural diversity we find strength, courage, integrity, and respect.

These past two years have been marked by change and progress in our courts. We have new leadership in the Administrative Office of the Courts, committed to performing with a high level of professionalism and to serving the core needs and functions of the judiciary. Through our Judicial Information Division, we continue exploring and implementing new technology as well as collaborating with the legislative and executive branches in collecting and sharing data and information. We continue to move forward addressing the needs of children and families through the work of the Court Improvement Project, juvenile drug courts, and the Tribal-State Judicial Consortium. At my urging, the Consortium is expanding its reach and planning to involve all of the four corners states in the 2003 Cross-Court Cultural Exchange.

As we embrace change and look to the future, we do so in the context of the retirement of Justice Joseph F. Baca, on July 31, 2002; and the retirement of Justice Gene E. Franchini, on December 31, 2002. We will miss the wit, wisdom, and courage they collectively brought to the bench. The New Mexico Supreme Court as an institution, and our continually developing body of state law, will benefit for many years to come from the legacy, work, and spirit of these two native sons and accomplished jurists. Thank you, my colleagues and brothers; we miss you.

While we respect the lessons and cherish the memories of the past, we must march on. Appointed through the Constitutionally mandated judicial selection process, Justice Paul J. Kennedy very ably filled the interim vacancy left by Justice Baca. Justice Kennedy quickly earned the respect and admiration of everyone he worked with, authoring and participating in numerous opinions, and involving himself wholeheartedly in the business and activities of the judiciary. We thank Justice Kennedy for his sincerity, commitment, and kindness.

Victorious in the 2002 general election, Court of Appeals Chief Judge Richard C. Bosson has now joined the Court. Justice Bosson brings vast legal and administrative experience to the bench, and we look forward to working with him in the years to come. We will continue to function as a Court of only four Justices until early 2003, when the judicial selection process is completed and a fifth Justice is appointed. With so many changes, this has undoubtedly been an interesting and challenging time for the Court. I commend and thank the entire Supreme Court staff for their competent and dedicated service during this period of transition.

We are fortunate to have committed and loyal staff working at all levels of the judiciary throughout the state. I have personally met and thanked many of you. I now thank all of you again. I know you will continue to contribute and excel as our next Chief Justice, Petra Jimenez Maes, leads us through the challenges and opportunities the future holds. As a state that celebrates and honors diversity, New Mexicans can be proud that Justice Maes is the first Hispanic woman in the country to serve as chief justice of a state supreme court. Let us continue to stand together, united and firmly committed to the cause and promise of equal justice for all.



Patricio M. Serna

Chief Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court
January 6, 2001, to January 7, 2003



GOAL 1:

IMPROVE CASE FLOW MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE TIMELY AND FAIR PROCEEDINGS

Improving Case Management to Reduce the Time Required to Dispose of Cases

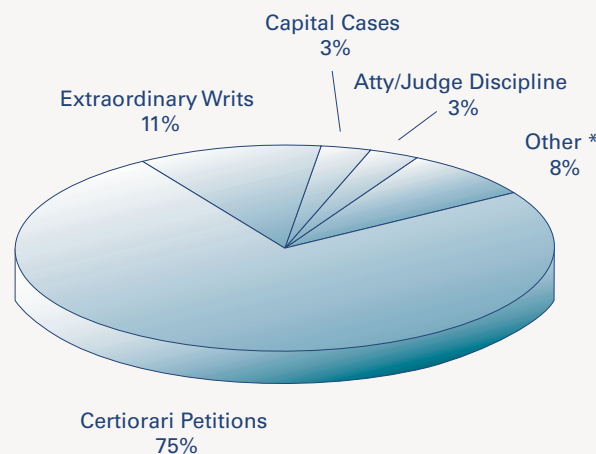
The **Court of Appeals** used its case management calendaring system to average less than six months from notice of appeal to decision in approximately 65 percent of its caseload. The Court implemented a program to transcribe audiotaped proceedings for indigent criminal appeals, thereby reducing the time spent listening to tapes in order to review the record on appeal.

Court Accomplishments, by district, include:

- **First District:** Developed case management reports to identify specific cases requiring attention so that hearings are set and cases are disposed in a timely manner.
- **Second District:** Extended the Differentiated Case Management (DCM) project for delinquency cases to December, 2002, to achieve the final project goal of developing computerized case management system reports that will assist the Court in monitoring its case management plan. The Criminal Division modified its organizational structure so that each clerk is trained to perform all tasks required in the division. The Civil Division modified its work hours to manage resources more efficiently and effectively.
- **Third District:** Developed a case management pilot program for the Criminal and Domestic Relations divisions.
- **Fifth District:** Used computerized data and reports to improve case management.
- **Sixth District:** Implemented strategies designed to expedite juvenile cases and to hold jury trials in a timely fashion. The court contracted with special masters to hear domestic violence, juvenile first appearances, and child support cases.
- **Seventh District:** Provided input for statewide reports based on data standards. Distributed reports to each court in the district.
- **Eighth District:** Extended the DCM project in civil cases.
- **Tenth District:** Ensured that litigants have ample time for their cases to be heard by setting specific blocks of time for hearings. Regularly used FACTS™ (the judiciary's case management application) reports to track open cases and make dispositions in compliance with local rules.
- **Twelfth District:** Used DCM to reduce time to disposition in criminal cases. Implemented a criminal month in Otero County to expedite the flow of cases and to allow other divisions to provide more timely settings in civil cases.
- **Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court (Metro):** Implemented a new traffic arraignment process in which a person cited for a traffic violation is given a specific court appearance date and time, allowing the person the opportunity to dispose of their case with only one visit to the courthouse. The new process also eliminates the need for the citing officer to be present for arraignment.

Supreme Court Filings - FY 2002

Please note that filings do not represent the entire workload of the Supreme Court.



* Includes PRC appeals, election challenges, MCLE and bar dues citations for non-compliance, and certification.

GOAL 2: PROVIDE TRAINING TO ENHANCE THE SKILLS OF JUDGES AND COURT STAFF

Recruiting and Retaining High Quality Staff

The **Supreme Court** Clerk's Office is operating at full staffing capacity. The Court's long-time chief deputy clerk retired in December with 25 years of distinguished service to the Judiciary, and one of its Justices was honored for 20 years on the bench.

Court Accomplishments, by district, include:

- **First District:** Used qualified selection panels to select new employees; focused on salary equity for new and existing employees.
- **Third District:** Hired a human resource analyst to update policies and procedures, to enhance the recruitment process, and to collaborate with the Rozier E. Sanchez Judicial Education Center (JEC) to provide employee training in the Third and Sixth districts.
- **Fourth District:** Cross trains all employees using the 118 years of combined experience to keep court operations running smoothly and efficiently.
- **Seventh District:** Focused on hiring for attitude and training for skills.
- **Twelfth District:** Recruited two highly experienced individuals in Lincoln County.

Enhancing the Skills of Judges and Court Staff

The **Rozier E. Sanchez Judicial Education Center (JEC)** received the eighth annual Howell Heflin Award from the State Justice Institute of Alexandria, Virginia, for its judicial education website course on Alternate Dispute Resolution in the Courts. The JEC also produced or supported the production of 21 educational conferences and seminars. The JEC produced a new single, comprehensive binder of orientation materials for new district, probate, municipal and magistrate judges and sent 33 judges and court personnel to out-of-state training programs with state funds and scholarship monies. Working with district court administrators, the JEC initiated a new regional model for educational planning. The JEC is developing an online "virtual trial" on domestic violence for New Mexico courts, a web-based resource library for judges and judicial educators nationwide on drunk driving cases, and DWI and municipal court bench books.

Court Accomplishments, by district, include:

- **First District:** Provided enhanced court security training tailored to judges, bailiffs, and all court staff; obtained drug court training through the National Drug Court Institute and the Association of Drug Court Professionals.
- **Second District:** Members of the Court Alternatives Program pursued training in arbitration law policies and procedures and learned database computer programming to enhance their abilities to understand and do their job. An educational grant was awarded to a domestic violence supervisor to attend the Annual Advocacies In Action Domestic Violence Conference.
- **Third District:** Provided ongoing training for judges and court staff.
- **Fourth District:** Advocated attendance at the court employees conferences; attended statewide meetings to stay informed on new policies and procedures.
- **Seventh District:** Explored every training opportunity. Clerk staff, as well as judges, hold quarterly meetings.
- **Tenth District:** All supervisors attended management development seminars. Computer classes are available to all interested employees.
- **Twelfth District:** Judges and drug court staff attended seminars at the National Institute for Drug Court Professionals; attended the district court employees annual conference, and three court employees are taking classes at a local university.

GOAL 3:

PROVIDE REASONABLE AND AFFORDABLE ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN SAFE AND ADEQUATE FACILITIES

Focusing on Meeting the Needs of Court Users

Beginning July 1, 2001, the **Supreme Court** converted its manual docketing system to an automated docketing system. During the first twelve-month period, the system was checked against the manual system to ensure accuracy in case information and statistical reports. Docketing information is accessible from each clerk's workstation, which enables each clerk to respond to customer questions promptly and more completely without having to reference the case file.

The **Supreme Court Law Library** adjusted its hours to remain open while security coverage is available. The Library made its catalog available over the local building network in October, 2002 and completed its Disaster Preparedness Plan in November, 2001. The Library answered 96.8 percent of the 5000 reference requests made in FY 2001. The Library's website receives over 500 hits a week.

The **Court of Appeals Mediation Program** processed 125 cases during FY 2002. Settlements were achieved in 31 percent of the cases. The Court produced forms packets for use by self-represented litigants and is currently developing an interactive CD-ROM version of the forms.

Now in its eighth year of initiatives, the **Court Improvement Project** continues to be supported by federal and state funding to improve court proceedings in child abuse/neglect cases to ensure children who have been removed from their homes are reunited with their parents, placed in adoptive homes, or placed in another permanent living situation as quickly as possible. Six booklets have been developed on various topics that arise in these cases - written from a child's, parent's, foster parent's, teacher's, community's, or a clinician's perspective.

The **Tribal-State Judicial Consortium** produced its third annual Cross-Court Cultural Exchange. The event was hosted by the Tesuque, San Juan, and Santa Clara Pueblo Tribal Courts and the State of New Mexico's Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, First Judicial District Court, and Administrative Office of the Courts. The U.S. District Court also participated. Currently in the planning stages, the 2003 Cross-Court Cultural Exchange will include the four corners states: New Mexico, Colorado, Utah and Arizona. The State Bar of New Mexico presented its Outstanding Program of the Year Award to the Consortium for the Cross-Court Cultural Exchange program at its annual convention in July, 2002.

In 2002, the **State Court Interpreter Certification Program**, under the direction and oversight of the Supreme Court Interpreters Advisory Committee, began a comprehensive revision and update of the certification program curriculum, examination process, policies, guidelines, and educational manuals. A current directory of certified court interpreters can be found on the judiciary website, www.nmcourts.com.

The revised **District Court Administrative Procedures Manual** has been submitted to the Supreme Court for approval. The manual will allow clerks to access statutes, rules, criminal and civil forms, and other resources via the Internet.

The **Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission (JPEC)** released its recommendations on whether voters should retain 80 judges standing for retention in November, 2002. The report included recommendations to "retain," "not retain," "no opinion," or "opinion not available" on two Supreme Court justices and two Court of Appeals judges, 60 district court judges running in 13 judicial districts throughout the state, and 16 Metropolitan Court judges standing for retention in Bernalillo County. The report is available at www.nmjpec.org.

Over 1,500 clients participated in **Drug Courts** in FY 2002. Drug courts are finalizing a cost study to help determine the cost per client. The New Mexico Supreme Court formed the Drug Court Advisory Committee to develop standards for all drug courts. The standards were submitted to the Supreme Court in November, 2002. Through an extension of a federal grant, a central data collection system is being developed for drug courts.

Court Accomplishments, by district, include:

- **First District:** Transferred an existing judgeship from Santa Fe County to Rio Arriba County to meet the judicial needs of those residents; continued to work with local domestic case attorneys to provide classes and individualized assistance to self-represented litigants.
- **Second District:** Moved into the new Bernalillo County Courthouse in August, 2001 — a seven-story, 272,284 square-foot structure with 25 courtrooms. The courthouse contains a state-of-the-art security system, low profile access flooring, and an integrated building management control system. New Mexico's "1 Percent for the Arts Program" provided a Courthouse Art Collection worth almost \$1 million. The Court hired two part-time interpreters to translate forms, provide interpreting services, and develop a training program for new contract interpreters.
- **Third District:** Worked with the Judicial Information Division to improve domestic violence forms on the web for self-represented litigants. The court purchased jury management software and an evidence display system for three courtrooms.
- **Fourth District:** Offered forms and clinics for self-represented litigants; started a voluntary juvenile drug court in 2001.
- **Fifth District:** The Eddy County Courthouse, which is on the National and

State Historic Registers, was completely remodeled in 2001. The Chaves County District Court has moved to temporary facilities in the new Chaves County Administrative Complex while the Chaves County Courthouse, built in 1912 and also on the National and State Historic Registers, is completely restored and an annex is built to provide modern and adequate facilities. The Fifth District is grateful to Eddy and Chaves counties for their support of the courts.

- **Sixth District:** Emphasized customer service by providing a self-represented litigant officer who assists litigants involved in domestic matters; provided forms to the public for a variety of court proceedings; and allowed its staff attorney, as time permitted, to provide legal information to the public.
- **Ninth District:** Introduced security measures to provide a safe and secure area for both court users and staff, including security equipment and controlled access to the court area; operated an information center to provide general assistance and information to court users; developed new signs to properly identify court offices.
- **Tenth District:** Provided forms, information and assistance to self-represented litigants in domestic matters, name change, and driver's license restoration procedures.

- **Eleventh District:** Operated a monthly Self-Represented Resource Center which provides forms, information, and assistance from volunteer attorneys; reduced the term of service for jury duty from six months to one month in San Juan County and from six months to two months in McKinley County.

- **Twelfth District:** Provided interpreters for Spanish speaking customers; provided dissolution of marriage packets to self-represented litigants; and provided monthly juror calendar and daily juror messages on the court website.

- **Thirteenth District:** Implemented a juvenile drug court in Valencia County; in the final planning stages of a new courthouse for Sandoval County, which will be located in Bernalillo, New Mexico.

- **Metro Court:** Continued construction on the new Metro Courthouse and adjacent multi-story parking structure, scheduled for completion in the fall of 2003. Pretrial Services Division interviewed and reviewed records of arrestees at the Bernalillo County Detention Center to determine eligibility for release on their own recognizance or for a lower money bond. The probation Division implemented offender drug testing.

Enhancing Court Services to Children and Families

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) continues to work with the New Mexico Children Youth and Families Department (CYFD) to enhance court services to children and families. Five judicial districts are piloting the use of court-connected mediation in abuse and neglect cases, which conserves both judicial and CYFD resources and improves outcomes for children and families. The AOC produced a video and written materials explaining the mediation process to families.

Left:
Justice Petra Jimenez
Maes addressing
middle school students

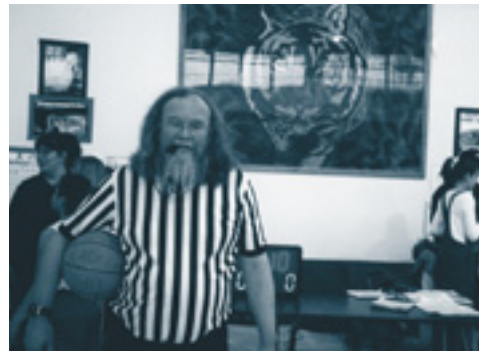


Right:
Judge Geraldine
Rivera with new
adoptive family





Left:
Judge John Pope
as Santa with foster
children



Right:
Judge John Pope
refereeing a
basketball game

Court Accomplishments, by district, include:

- **First District:** Shortened the period of time between court appearances in juvenile court proceedings, which enables children and families to access social services. Judges referred high-conflict families to therapists when appropriate.
- **Second District:** Maintained an average of 76 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) volunteers who monitored cases involving 240 children; announced an amnesty period for juveniles with outstanding warrants, which resulted in 87 warrants being quashed; initiated SNAP (Say No to Abusing Power), a teen domestic violence intervention program; sponsored the attendance of six volunteers and the program director at the National CASA Convention; and encouraged juveniles to participate in the literacy program, with 80 percent of the juveniles improving their reading skills.
- **Third District:** Provided mediation services and parenting education for children and families in divorce proceedings; CASA vol-

unteers provided services in abuse and neglect cases; the juvenile drug court program provided individual and group counseling.

- **Fourth District:** Implemented a CASA program.
- **Fifth District:** Funded and supported CASA, teen court programs, and mediation services in domestic cases.
- **Sixth District:** Implemented a mediation program in May, 2002 to assist litigants involved in custody issues; contracted with the CASA program and with a supervised visitation provider to provide a neutral facility for the transfer of children when parents are involved in custody issues.
- **Seventh District:** Implemented a pilot project in Socorro County for mediation in neglect and abuse cases; expanded the current CASA program.
- **Ninth District:** Established a clinic for self-represented litigants in Roosevelt and Curry counties; provided Supreme Court

approved forms for divorce and custody matters, which are compiled into a series of six packets for use by self-represented litigants.

- **Tenth District:** Established a program to provide mediation as well as access and visitation assistance to court users.
- **Eleventh District:** The Grade Court program in San Juan County awarded 77 scholarships to adjudicated students who graduated from Grade Court. Forty-six of those students are currently enrolled in San Juan College. Since the inception of Grade Court in 1997, 174 graduates have enrolled in San Juan College. The Juvenile Drug Court program completed its first full year with 68 clients participating and 9 clients graduating.
- **Twelfth District:** Supported the CASA programs and provided an education program for divorcing parents with children. The Juvenile Drug Court served 49 clients with 11 graduations.

Providing Alternative Dispute Resolution Services Throughout the State

The **Court of Appeals** referred most civil cases that are not decided on its summary calendar to its appellate mediator for mandatory mediation. The Court has offered the mediation program to self-represented litigants on a voluntary basis for the last two years. The mediation office fully processed 125 cases during the last fiscal year, yielding a settlement rate of 31 percent.

Court Accomplishments, by district, include:

- **First District:** Encouraged local attorney support for its Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program by offering CLE education credits for attorneys acting as voluntary settlement referees; initiated a district-wide settlement conference committee made up of local attorneys.
- **Second District:** Hearing officers encouraged participation in mediation and

provided assistance in setting the time and place of the mediation, including distributing scheduling notices to all parties.

- **Third District:** Continued to enhance its ADR program.
- **Fourth District:** Offered local mediation to parties in domestic relations cases.
- **Seventh District:** Provided customer service training to all employees, using comments

and suggestions from a juror exit questionnaire and a comment box; implemented mediation in Socorro County for neglect and abuse cases.

- **Twelfth District:** Offered alternative dispute resolution through mediation, arbitration, and settlement facilitation programs.
- **Thirteenth District:** Began implementation of an ADR program throughout the district.

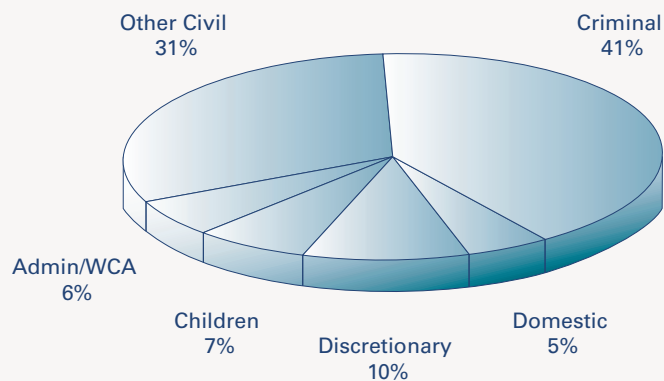
Enhancing Public Understanding of the Courts and Judges

The **Court of Appeals** solicited feedback on its opinions by sending survey forms along with each opinion to attorneys and litigants.

Court Accomplishments, by district, include:

- **First District:** Implemented a “Junior Judge and Jury” program, placing high school students in the position of making adult decisions as judges and juries; developed and distributed “The Jury Process,” a video to assist in the orientation of jurors.
- **Second District:** CASA volunteers created educational materials for presentations to service organizations; participated in “Make a Difference Day”; wrote newspaper articles; and sponsored a monthly program orientation for community members. The Family Court Clinic staff made and sold patriotic ribbons. The funds were matched by a local grocery store chain, and approximately \$1,000 was donated to the 9-11 Relief Fund.
- **Third District:** Established a website which provides information about the court and its judges.
- **Fifth District:** Published a court information booklet entitled “Your Court - Justice in the Community.”
- **Sixth District:** Participated in the JPEC evaluation process; produced videos for self-represented litigants which includes information on the judicial process.
- **Seventh District:** Placed a comment box at the clerk’s counter in every court; distributed juror exit questionnaires to all jurors at the conclusion of jury trials.
- **Tenth District:** Updated the jury information booklet; focused on customer service.
- **Twelfth District:** Conducted jury orientation sessions; provided internships for college students attending New Mexico State University at Alamogordo; provided information about court services on the court website.

Court of Appeals Filings - FY 2002



GOAL 4:

OBTAIN ADEQUATE FUNDING AND RESOURCES FOR COURT OPERATIONS

Making More Efficient Use of Existing Resources

The Judiciary completed an audit of the **Classification Plan** and the **Compensation Plan**, which resulted in the implementation of both plans in July, 2002. The judiciary is currently reviewing the New Mexico Judicial Branch Personnel Rules.

The **AOC Magistrate Court Warrant Enforcement Program** collected \$4,379,846 in Fiscal Year 02 - \$2,832,521 in outstanding fines and fees (doubling collections from the previous year) and \$1,547,325 in bench warrant fees. The program used the Tax Refund Intercept Program (TRIP), which intercepts state tax returns from defendants who fail to pay their outstanding obligations to the courts, to collect \$246,463 of the total outstanding fines and fees.

Court Accomplishments, by district, include:

- **First District:** Transferred an existing judgeship to the courthouse in Tierra Amarilla, which is expected to save Rio Arriba County approximately \$300,000 per year in prisoner transport costs; developed approved court performance measures.
- **Second District:** Added one full-time hearing officer to reduce delays in case processing; completed a physical inventory of furniture and equipment scheduled for donation to other agencies; completed the computer inventory and the fixed asset inventory. Received eight new positions from the legislature in Fiscal Year 2002.
- **Third District:** Enhanced customer services by using volunteers and interns and by collaborating with other agencies to provide services.
- **Eighth District:** Participated as a pilot site for the Four Corners Consortium Telephonic Interpreting Project .
- **Ninth District:** Participated in the Four Corners Telephonic Interpreting Project to provide certified Spanish interpreting services during times when interpreters are not available locally.
- **Twelfth District:** Volunteers from the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) assisted in the clerk's office and helped manage the law library. Interns from New Mexico State University assisted in the clerk's office and in the Domestic Violence Division.
- **Metro Court:** Developed new court administrative structures to realign administrative divisions and services.

Obtaining Adequate Resources for Court Operations

The **Supreme Court Building** was listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings in January, 2002. The Building is also listed on the historic registers of the State of New Mexico, City of Santa Fe, and Santa Fe Foundation. In partnership with the GSD Property Control Division, most of the heating and air conditioning systems in the building were replaced or retrofitted with more efficient, energy saving systems.

Court Accomplishments, by district, include:

- **First District:** Obtained a federal grant allowing the court to improve coordination of domestic violence cases with cases involving the same families in other areas of the court.
- **Third District:** Worked with the legislature to obtain adequate resources for the Court; pursued federal grants to assist in areas not funded by the legislature.
- **Fifth District:** Sought funding for advanced training to enhance the skills of judges and court staff and to obtain adequate resources for court operations.
- **Sixth District:** Obtained funding for a juvenile drug court.
- **Seventh District:** Used volunteers in all courts; anticipating completion of new judicial complex in Torrance County by December, 2002.
- **Ninth District:** Purchased new audio equipment for both Roosevelt and Curry counties which includes access for hearing-impaired persons.
- **Tenth District:** Completely renovated the court facilities in DeBaca County.
- **Twelfth District:** Obtained additional federal grant money to enhance the juvenile drug court program.

GOAL 5: OBTAIN AND USE TECHNOLOGY TO COLLECT, PROCESS AND SHARE INFORMATION NEEDED TO PROCESS CASES AND MANAGE RESOURCES

Making Maximum Use of Automation to Improve Court Services and Efficiency

The **Court of Appeals** went live with the appellate version of the statewide automated docketing system FACTS™ in February, 2001. The Court preserves closed files by imaging them to CD-ROMs.

In 2001, using funds from the Metropolitan and Magistrate Court Capital Fund, the **Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)** purchased equipment and implemented video conferencing in pilot courts for video arraignments. Video arraignments follow statewide video conferencing standards established by a task force of representatives from the AOC, Magistrate Courts, Public Defenders Office, District Attorneys Office and Metropolitan Court. Currently, there are 14 pilot magistrate courts utilizing video conferencing equipment for video arraignments.

The judiciary selected **ACS Juror Software** for use by all district and magistrate courts. The initial installation phase

of this project occurred in 2002 in the First and Third districts, and other courts will begin using the software in 2003 and 2004.

The **Municipal Court Automation Project** has assisted all but two of the existing municipal courts in developing and implementing automation plans. The courts are able to report conviction information for DWI and domestic violence electronically to the Central Repository. Currently, over 19,000 reports are available on the judiciary's website, www.nmcourts.com.

Court Accomplishments, by district, include:

- **First District:** Obtained approval of an imaging system plan, which will allow archived files converted to digital format to be destroyed per the retention schedules; implemented digital recording system for court proceedings.
- **Second District:** The Information System Division developed a scanning application for paper files to enable Criminal Division clerks to track the location of case files and enhanced the court's jury management software to initiate and generate reports to record juror usage and yield, list jurors whose service has been postponed, list jurors who were mailed an information letter, tracks undeliverable summons, and records the date that reimbursement checks were mailed to jurors. The Court has implemented For The Record (FTR) equipment for all hearings and plans to replace other recording equipment with FTR systems for proceedings which are currently stored on audio tape. The Criminal Division uses E-mail and Adobe Acrobat to transmit daily calendars to the jail, to attorneys, to bonding companies, and to probation staff. The Human Resources Division implemented the Human Resource Information System (HRIS). The court is currently using Build "P" of the FACTS™ case

management application. The Trust Accounting System, which tracks litigant funds, enables the court to calculate interest on individual cases with a touch of a button.

- **Third District:** Worked with the Judicial Information Division to explore and implement new technology; volunteered to pilot new software programs and provided ongoing training to staff as technology is introduced.

- **Fourth District:** Used the FACTS™ statewide case lookup system as a tool to expeditiously help court users locate information on cases.

- **Fifth District:** Maintained a public website with links to other judicial websites:

- **Sixth District:** Installed an evidence presentation system for use in jury trials; installed an imaging system for financial and personnel files; and installed a digital recording system.

- **Seventh District:** Implemented the district court performance measures; supported the Judicial Information Division and its services.

- **Eighth District:** Implemented an electronic library in three counties of the district.

- **Ninth District:** Developed a court website to provide information about court

services, jury information, and links to other websites.

- **Tenth District:** Used E-mail to communicate more effectively between remote court locations and used technology to perform audits, track cases, manage cases, produce financial reports, track outstanding fines and fees, and collect data for performance based budgeting.

- **Eleventh District:** Unveiled its court website that contains judicial profiles, civil jury trial verdicts, case statistics, forms, jury duty schedules, general information, division contacts, and other sites. The website also contains links to statistical information. The District Court in McKinley County is piloting the Court Order Protection Registry project. Protection Orders are entered on the Protection Registry, docketed to FACTS™, and sent to NCIC at the same time, thus enhancing the safety of victims of domestic violence.

- **Twelfth District:** Used automation for instant communication, for case management, and for budget and financial reports.

- **Metro Court:** Developed and implemented new computer information systems and software programs.

Improving Teamwork Within and Among New Mexico Courts

The **Supreme Court** formed three committees in 2001 to develop performance measures for appellate, district, metropolitan and magistrate courts; the Compilation Commission; the Supreme Court Library; and the Supreme Court Building Commission. The committees sought input and utilized experience and knowledge of judges and judicial staff from every level of court.

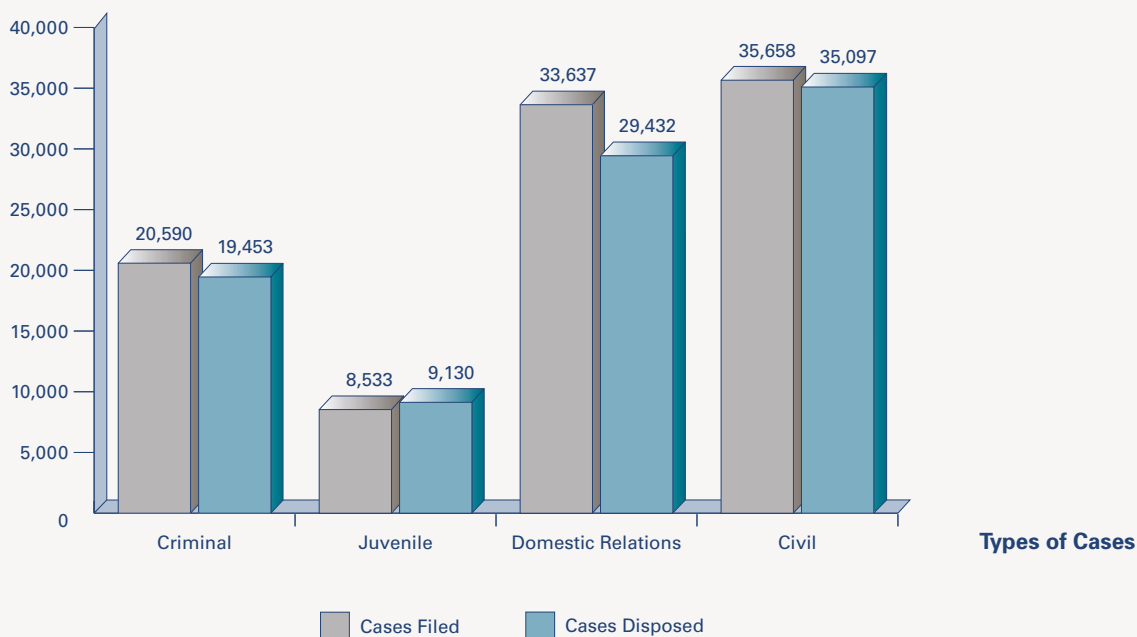
The **Supreme Court** also formed a committee consisting of judges and court staff from around the state to develop a streamlined strategic plan and goals.

Court Accomplishments, by district, include:

- **First District:** Supported the statewide District Court Performance Measures Committee and the Chief Judges Council Budget Committee.
- **Third District:** Participated on statewide committees to network and collaborate with the judiciary as a whole. In the district court environment, we continue to strive for teamwork by working together and communicating the needs of the Court.
- **Fifth District:** Cooperated with other judicial districts, magistrate and municipal courts on problems and projects. Currently seeking funding for video arraignment equipment compatible with the magistrate court system already in place in Chaves County.
- **Seventh District:** Participated in statewide committees; submitted articles for publication in the judicial electronic newsletter.
- **Tenth District:** Organized and hosted meetings with the Department of Public Safety, magistrate and district court employees, and all law enforcement entities in DeBaca, Quay, and Harding counties for the implementation of the State Tracking Number, which became a mandatory FACTS™ entry in July, 2002; participated in the development of a court clerk's manual and with the program planning for the annual statewide court employees conference.
- **Twelfth District:** Participated in the local Bench and Bar Conference; served on several statewide committees.

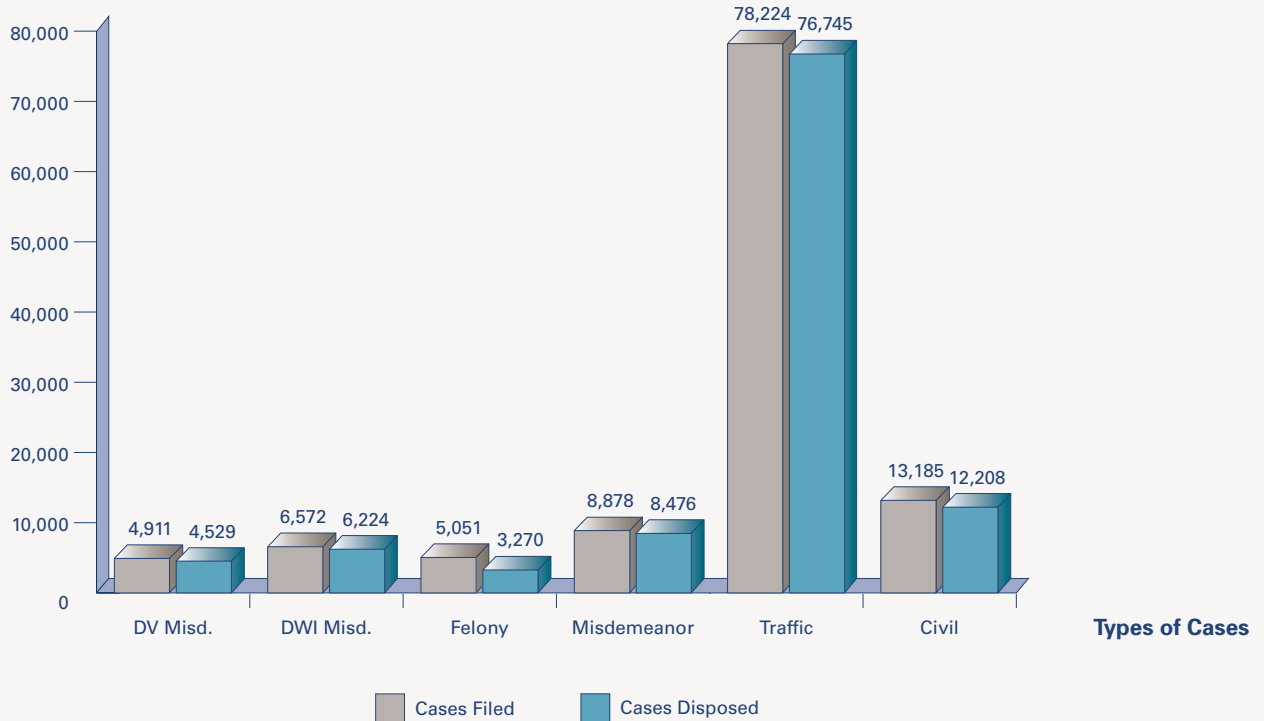
District Court Total Filings and Dispositions FY 2002

Number of Cases



Bernalillo County Metropolitan Court Total Filings and Dispositions FY 2002

Number of Cases



Magistrate Court Total Filings and Dispositions FY 2002

Number of Cases

